Appl. No. 09/812,784
Reply to Office Action of May 5, 2004

Attorney Docket: P66491US0

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (cancelled)

Claim 2 (currently amended)   A bitstream conversion apparatus for converting an incoming first moving-picture bitstream at a first code transfer rate to a second moving-picture bitstream at a second code transfer rate, the incoming first moving-picture bitstream having been obtained by coding first pictures set at a predetermined interval and used as reference pictures for inter-picture prediction of a moving picture to be coded and coding second pictures different from the first pictures, the apparatus comprising:

a motion amount detector to obtain motion activity ~~on~~ from information on activity carried by the incoming first moving-picture bitstream;

a decimation controller to set a decimation rate on the second pictures of the incoming first moving-picture bitstream according to at least the motion activity; and

a bitstream decimator to decimate only bitstreams of the second pictures from the incoming first moving-picture bitstream at another predetermined interval according to the decimation rate.

Claims 3 – 5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (currently amended)   A method of converting an incoming first moving-picture bitstream at a first code transfer rate to a second moving-picture bitstream at a second code transfer rate, the incoming first moving-picture bitstream having been obtained by coding first pictures set at a predetermined interval and used as reference pictures for inter-picture prediction of a moving picture to be coded and coding second pictures different from the first pictures, the method comprising the steps of:

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obtaining motion activity ~~on~~ from information on activity carried by the incoming first moving-picture bitstream;

setting a decimation rate on the second pictures of the incoming first moving-picture bitstream according to at least the motion activity; and

decimating only bitstreams of the second pictures from the incoming first moving-picture bitstream at another predetermined interval according to the decimation rate.

Claims 7 – 8 (cancelled)

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